



The NUNES Report

Nunes summit focuses on nursing shortage

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Expert speakers laud proposal to establish a regional training center

More than 140 health care leaders and educators gathered at Children's Hospital Central California for a nursing shortage summit hosted by Rep. Devin Nunes.

"At a time when hospitals are grappling with the prospect of mandated nurse-to-patient ratios, and in an environment when they are already having to recruit from outside the state—and even the country—to meet labor force needs, this summit provided some much-needed direction and cooperation for our local health care community," said Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Tulare.

The congressman asked the crowd to come up with collaborative proposals he could pursue through legislation or funding through existing government programs.

The participants split up into three groups to tackle the issue from different angles, including recruiting and retaining a vibrant workforce, expanding classroom and clinical space, and increasing the number of qualified instructors.

The morning speaker was Deloras Jones, executive



More than 140 health care leaders and educators from Bakersfield to Yuba City attended Rep. Devin Nunes' second health summit. The event was focused on addressing the shortage of registered nurses and health care technicians.

Quick Facts

In March, Rep. Nunes helped 50 constituents overcome problems with government agencies.

For the year, the congressman has directly solved cases for 118 constituents and is currently assisting 525 others. Furthermore, since Rep. Nunes was elected to Congress he has directly solved cases for 1,118 constituents.

director of the California Institute of Nursing and Health Care.

She warned that California faces a severe shortage of health care workers, especially registered nurses, by 2010. Not only will the Baby Boom generation be entering retirement, but so will a large percentage of the current nurse workforce.

Elizabeth Duke, administrator for Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, was the keynote speaker at lunch. HRSA is one of 11 operating

divisions of the federal health department. The agency uses its budget to expand access to health care through an extensive grant program to state and local governments, health care providers and training programs.

She told the crowd that they need to come together as a region to address the problem and come up with innovative solutions. She was very encouraged by the proposal to establish a regional training center that could be utilized by multiple

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Valley needs more water storage

By Rep. Devin Nunes
Commentary
Visalia Times-Delta

The pirates who sailed the high seas had a song with a line that went, "Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink." Of course, they were referring to the briny sea-water that was unsuitable for consumption.

As we dry out from the wettest March in seven years, we could modify the old mariner's song to read: "Water, water everywhere but not a place to put it."

This winter season we've been deluged with rain here in the San Joaquin Valley, and while common sense tells you that these downpours should mean lots of extra water for homes, the environment and agriculture, that's unfortunately not the case.

Any "extra" water we get in the Central Valley during a rainy season is lost to us because we have no way of capturing the additional runoff to save for another day. This "extra" water simply runs down the river beyond the reach of our wells

and valuable crop lands.

Runoff forecasts already show that as much as 1.6 million acre-feet of water will pass down the San Joaquin River this season.

That's a lot of water, but Friant Dam at Millerton Lake can only hold 520,000 acre-feet at a time. So, the Bureau of Reclamation has already begun releasing water that can't be stored.

The simple solution to this dilemma we face is to build another dam upstream from Millerton Lake. The Bureau of Reclamation is already studying this option and I am doing what I can as a member of Congress to make sure the agency's efforts are supported politically and financially until the job is done.

We simply cannot believe that our booming population and vibrant agricultural industry can continue to survive with such a limited water supply. The problem will only get worse over time as we deplete our groundwater supply and fail to develop the infrastructure needed to replenish it.

I'm always wary when

someone says they've got a win-win solution to a problem, but I honestly think there is a win-win solution in this case. At the start of my first term I introduced legislation calling for a dam on the upper San Joaquin River and have fought for the necessary funding to study the project since that time. The dam would allow us to capture surplus rain and snow pack runoff in wet years to supplement the supply during dry years for cities served by the watershed, as well as agricultural users.

The additional storage capability would also allow us to regulate the flow from the downstream Friant Dam, thereby truly restoring the San Joaquin River, its habitat and fisheries.

We must unite as a region in support of this important project. No new water projects have been built in the Central Valley in more than a generation. If we want to ensure the health and prosperity of future generations, we must speak with a single voice in support of a new dam on the San Joaquin River now.



Nunes helps bury the death tax

Rep. Devin Nunes voted to permanently repeal the Death Tax—an outdated practice that could tax the estate and business assets of the deceased by as much as 47 percent.

“The permanent end of the death tax means future generations of family-owned businesses and farms in Fresno and Tulare counties don’t have to face closure upon the death of the original owner,” Rep. Devin Nunes said. “Small businesses and family farms are



the backbone of our economy. We need to do everything we can to ensure they have every opportunity to succeed.”

More than 70 percent of family businesses do not survive the second generation; 87 percent do not make it to the third generation, according to the Center for the Study of Taxation. While heirs to family business work to carry an enterprise to the next generation, the government immediately “inherits” a 47 percent bite of the estate, a blow that many small businesses cannot survive.

The threat of the Death

Tax forces small-business owners to pay for expensive “estate planning” if they want to keep their business in the family.

The Heritage Foundation estimates that the tax costs the American economy between 170,000 and 250,000 jobs annually. Similarly, the Joint Economic Committee noted that the Death Tax reduces the stock in the economy by \$497 billion, or 3.2 percent.

“Death should not be a taxable event,” Rep. Nunes said. “I hope the Senate will act quickly to pass this important legislation.”

Nunes helps lead charge on national energy bill

Rep. Devin Nunes hailed the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 in April, which provides the nation a sound, comprehensive energy policy that will create the jobs our citizens need and deserve.

“You need look no further than the gas pump to see what the effect of not having an energy policy has done to our country,” Rep. Nunes said. “Our nation is too dependent on an unpredictable foreign oil market that’s being stretched to the limit by global demands.”

America is in the midst of an energy crisis that threatens national and economic security. The House legislation does a number of things to address the crisis.

It reduces our dependence on foreign oil by expanding domestic supplies and allowing oil and gas exploration right here in the United States. Incentives are provided for the energy industry to increase refining capacity for gasoline, diesel fuel, home heating oil and

jet fuel.

Rep. Nunes has long been an advocate of exploring energy resources in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and is one of only a few members of

Congress who has actually visited the proposed site.

“This legislation provides a clear path toward the more efficient, reliable and affordable energy policy that our citizens deserve,” he said.



Quick Facts

In March, Rep. Nunes organized tours of the U.S. Capitol, Library of Congress, Supreme Court, Kennedy Center, National Archives, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and Mt. Vernon for 285 constituents.

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educational institutions.

“I think this summit was a tremendous success,” Rep. Nunes said. “I am excited about some of the ideas generated here and look forward to pursuing

them in the months to come.”

Last June, the congressman formed an advisory group of industry leaders to outline problem areas in recruiting and training

health care technicians with the aim of holding a summit to refine ideas and develop an implementation strategy.

Nunes chairs National Parks hearing on snowmobile use

Subcommittee Chairman Devin Nunes convened the Subcommittee on National Parks for an oversight hearing on snowmobile use in our national parks.

A number of witnesses testified before the panel on the economic impact of heavily restricting, and even eliminating, snowmobile use in national parks, especially in regard to tourism.

“Our national parks were created for the enjoyment of the citizens of this country who own them,” said Rep. Devin Nunes, Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks.

“I am confident that we can find ways to give the public access to public land in a responsible way that protects the parks and preserves the reason for which they were created. As a side benefit, it’s clear by the testimony we heard today that recreation on public lands helps support the economy of surrounding communities.”

The most notable conflict over snowmobile use in the National Park System has occurred in Yellowstone National Park. A Clinton Administration ban on snowmobile access was overturned by the incoming Bush Administration in 2000. Since then,



National Parks Subcommittee Chairman Devin Nunes speaks with Staff Director Rob Howarth (left) and Ranking Member Donna M. Christensen, Virgin Islands. As the new chairman, Rep. Nunes has held weekly hearings for the subcommittee.

the decision and subsequent National Park Service Management Plans have permitted snowmobile use in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks despite the fact that the Administration’s Rule continues to be litigated in two different District Courts.

Local communities that rely significantly on winter snowmobile use have been hard hit by recent rulemakings that have severely limited the number of snowmo-

biles permitted in the national parks.

A sign above Yellowstone National Park prominently displays the intent of the National Park System according to President Teddy Roosevelt himself. It states the park was created and is to be administered for the benefit and enjoyment of the people; that it is the property of Uncle Sam and therefore of us all.

Nunes appointed to NEPA taskforce

Rep. Devin Nunes was appointed by House Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo to the Taskforce on Improving the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

NEPA was signed into law in 1970 to establish a national environmental policy

which directs federal agencies to conduct environmental reviews to consider the potential impacts on the environment when planning projects or issuing permits.

“It’s been 35 years since anyone has done a careful review to determine whether this legislation is accom-

plishing its mission,” said Rep. Nunes, Chairman of the Resources Subcommittee on National Parks. “I look forward to hearing testimony related to its effect and how it may be improved, if at all.”

The NEPA Taskforce will hold hearings and meetings across the country.

Quick Facts

In March, Rep. Nunes wrote to 1,260 constituents in response to their inquiries.

Year to date, Rep. Nunes has responded to 3,337 constituents via the U.S. Mail.

Furthermore, since Rep. Nunes was elected to Congress he has responded to 31,558 constituent letters via the U.S. Mail.